United Nations S/AC.44/2004/(02)/139

Security Council

Distr.: General
13 February 2009

Original: English

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

Note verbale dated 28 August 2008 from the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Committee

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and has the honour to enclose herewith the report of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) (see annex).

In order to update this report, Afghanistan will continue to provide further relevant information in the future.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 28 August 2008 from the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Committee

Report of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

The present report has been prepared in accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 1540 (2004) and is being submitted to the Security Council Committee established under rule 28 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Council.

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan deeply believes that the existence and continued development of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), the possibility of use or threat of use of WMD and the attempts of non-State actors acquiring such weapons are the most threatening factors to international peace and security.

Afghanistan does not possess WMD or produce, stockpiles or transfer nuclear, biological or chemical weapons and their means of delivery.

Being free of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan remains committed to the objectives of disarmament and non-proliferation, and fully supports the effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and prohibit any non-State actor from acquiring, possessing, developing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons.

Afghanistan, as a prime victim of international terrorism has taken numerous steps and measures at the domestic level to prevent terrorists from financing, planning, facilitating or committing terrorist acts. Afghanistan, as a country in the forefront of the global war against terrorism, prevents terrorists from acquiring WMD or any light and small weapons. At the international level, Afghanistan is a party to the following international instruments that suppress and prevent terrorist acts:

1. 1963 Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft
2. 1970 Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft
3. 1971 Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation
4. 1973 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents
5. 1979 International Convention against the Taking of Hostages
6. 1980 Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material
7. 1988 Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation
8. 1988 Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation

9. 1988 Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf

10. 1991 Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection

11. 1997 International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings

12. 1999 International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism

13. 2005 International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism

14. 2005 Amendment to the 1980 Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material

15. 2005 Protocol to the 1988 Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation

16. 2005 Protocol to the 1988 Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf.

Afghanistan, as a party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, has fulfilled its mandate of destroying all its known stockpiles of anti-personnel landmines under article four of the Ottawa Convention.

Afghanistan ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction. According to article seven of the Constitution, Afghanistan observes all international treaties which it has joined.

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan does not have chemical or biological weapons. It fully complies with the provisions of the Convention and fulfils its obligations under the Convention. Moreover, it does not provide any form of support to non-state actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery.

As a state party to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, Afghanistan supports unreservedly the various international efforts to ensure the non-proliferation and total elimination of all kinds of nuclear and other weapons that threaten humanity.

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan generally has instituted several legislative, administrative and security measures to deal with counter-terrorism and trafficking of WMD-related materials, and has taken steps for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and all other relevant United Nations resolutions, including resolutions 1267 and 1373. We will provide more required information in this regard.

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan considers the use of most types of weapons of mass destruction as contrary to international norms, and seeks universal disarmament of all nuclear and conventional weapons.

To promote general and complete disarmament, Afghanistan has supported and sponsored relevant resolutions through the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on the control of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and biological, chemical and nuclear weapons.